

ORDERS, DECREES, and RATES, Time out of Mind used by the Inhabitants of MARGAT and St. JOHN's in THANET in the County of KENT, a Member of DOVER, one of the Five Ports, for and towards the perpetual Maintenance and Preservation of the Peer and Harbour of MARGAT aforesaid, newly revised, ratified, confirmed and allowed, by his Excellency the Right Honourable HENRY, Lord Viscount SYDNEY of SHEPEY, Baron of MILTON Lord Lieutenant of the County of KENT, Constable of DOVER Castle, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Master General of the Ordnance, and one of their Majesty's most Honourable Privy-Council, &c. the Seventh Day of February, Anno Domini 1693-4, and in the Fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady King WILLIAM and Queen MARY.

IMPRIMIS, That all and every Person and Persons which do dwell or at any time hereafter shall dwell in Margat and the Parish of St. John's aforesaid, or any other person or persons whatsoever which shall have occasion to use or harbour in the said Peer at Margat with their Boats or Vessels either lading or unlading of any kind of Victual, Goods, or any other kind of Merchandize whatsoever, or in any other sort or manner do use or have any Trade, Traffick or Dealing in the said Peer, shall well and truly stand to, pay, obey, discharge, observe, fulfill and keep, all and singular the ancient Customs, Orders, Decrees, Payments and Agreements, whatsoever there used, and all other hereafter in these Presents contained, upon the Pains and Forfeitures hereafter mentioned.

Item 2. That the Deputy of St. John's for the Time being shall yearly, the Sunday before May-day, cause publick Notice to be given in the Parish Church of St. John's, immediately after Divine Service in the Forenoon, to the Inhabitants that shall be there present, that they shall assemble themselves together upon May-day next following, at some convenient Place and Hour to be appointed by the Deputy: And there the Deputy with the greater Number of them which shall be there present shall make Choice by Voices (and the Deputy to have a double Voice) of two Wardens, commonly called Peer-Wardens, and also two Deputy Peer-Wardens, chosen to execute the said Office when and so often as the said Peer-Wardens shall be absent, or otherwise not able to execute the office of Peer-Wardenship; upon pain the Deputy neglecting his Warning of the Inhabitants of Margat and St. John's shall forfeit 10s.

Item 3. That every Inhabitant of Margat and St. John's which shall be elected and chosen Peer-Wardens or Deputy Peer-Wardens by the said Inhabitants that shall be assembled at the Time and Place as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall take the said Office upon him, and shall continue in the said Office one whole Year, upon pain to forfeit 5s.

Item 4. That the old Peer-Wardens shall, after the new Peer-Wardens be chosen, immediately deliver over unto the said new Peer-Wardens all such Books and Accounts as they formerly received of the Peer-Wardens their Predecessors; and also shall deliver up, within twenty Days after May-day, unto the said new Peer-Wardens and Inhabitants aforesaid, a true Note and perfect Account of all the Collections and Receipts that they have gathered during the Time they were Peer-Wardens there; and shall also deliver up a true Note and perfect Account how they have bestowed the Money by them received as aforesaid; and shall pay over to the new Peer-Wardens all such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be found to remain, and be due to the said Peer by that Account, upon pain to forfeit for every Week that they shall, contrary to this Order and Decree, detain the said Money as aforesaid 20s.

Item 5. It is further ordered and decreed, that if any of the Peer-Wardens or their Deputies shall depart this Life before the Year be ended, wherein he should have executed the Office of Peer-Warden or Deputy Peer-Warden, that then the Peer-Warden surviving, or their Deputies, shall, within ten Days next following, give publick Notice, in the Parish Church of St. John's aforesaid, unto the Parishioners, there to assemble themselves within four Days next ensuing, to elect and chuse a new Peer-Warden, or Deputy Peer-Warden, who shall execute the Office of the Party deceased, upon pain to forfeit 50s.

Item 6. It is further ordered and decreed, that the Heirs, Executors, or Administrators of the Parties deceased, shall, within one Month next after his Death, deliver unto the Parishioners and Peer-Wardens aforesaid, as well a true and just Account in Writing of all such Sum and Sums of Money and Specialties for to the Peer, as the Party deceased hath received and disbursed; as also all such Sums of Money as were remaining in the Hands of the said Party for the Use and Behalf of the said Peer at the time of his Death, upon pain to forfeit for every Week they shall contrary to this Decree and Order detain the said Money, Specialties and Accounts, as aforesaid, 10s.

Item 7. That every Master or Owner of any Ship, Crayer, Hoy, or any other Vessel, that doth lade or unlade any Corn, Beer, or Victuals, or any other kind of Goods or Merchandize whatsoever, within the said Peer, shall before his Departure out of it not only pay and discharge unto the Peer-Wardens or their Deputies all such Rates and Sums of Money as shall be due unto the said Peer by the Merchant for the Goods and Merchandize so by them laden or unladed, but also shall give a true Note in Writing of the Merchants Names, as well as Ports-men, Shire-men, or Strangers, as shall lade or unlade any Goods in the said Peer; and that it shall be lawful for the said Master to detain out of the Goods or Merchandizes aforesaid so much Money as he shall pay for the Peer Duties, if the Merchants deny Payment; or otherwise the Peer-Wardens to distrain their Goods, if they think fitting, upon pain to forfeit 20s.

Item 8. That every Master of every Ship, Crayer, or any other Vessel belonging to any of the Five Ports or their Members, being an Englishman, that shall lade or unlade any kind of Corn or Grain from Port to Port within this Realm, shall pay towards the maintenance of the said Peer, in regard of his own Freight, for every twenty Quarters of Wheat, Meal, Rye, Barley, Pease, Beans, Tares, and Mustard-feed, 4d. and for every twenty Quarters of Malt and Oats, 2d. which is called Lading. And all others not Inhabitants within the Five Ports or their Members, for every twenty Quarters of Wheat, Meal, Rye, Barley, Pease, Beans, Tares and Mustard-feed, 6d. and for every twenty Quarters of Malt and Oats 3d. and after that Rate for bigger or lesser quantities; and for all Goods and Merchandizes whatsoever so laden or unladed, to pay by the Pound Freight, viz. a Ports-man 4d. and a Shire-man 6d. which is called Poundage.

Item 9. That every Master of every Ship, Crayer, Hoy, or any other Vessel, that shall lade any kind of Grain, Beer, or any other kind of Merchandize to be transported beyond the Seas, shall pay for every twenty Quarters of Wheat, Meal, Rye, Barley, Pease, Beans, Tares and Mustard-feed, being a Ports-man, 6d. and a Shire-man 9d. and for Malt and Oats, for a Ports-man 3d. and a Shire-man 4d. halfpenny; and for every Last of Beer, for a Ports-man, 4d. and a Shire-man 6d. and for every Merchant, Stranger or Alien, double the Rate of a Ports-man; and for all other Goods that shall be transported, the Master to pay out of his Freight as aforesaid, for every twenty shillings Freight for a Ports-man 2d. and for every Alien or Stranger 6d.

Item 10. That every Merchant, Brewer, or any other Dealer, that shall lade or unlade any kind of Merchandizes or Goods, in or out of any outlandish Bottom, that is to say that Strangers be the Owners thereof, himself not adventuring the same, that then the said Master or Skipper of any such Vessel or Bottom, wherein the Goods or Merchandizes is so laden, or unshipped, shall pay to the use and maintenance of the Peer as a Stranger doth.

Item 11. That every Person or Persons whatever, that shall bring into the said Peer or Harbour any quantity of Salt, Salt-fish, Butter, Cheese, Coals, Wood, or any other durable Commodities, to the Intent to sell the same there, shall first give publick Notice thereof to the Country by the common Cryer there appointed, and shall lie the space of three Days after such public Notice given, to the Intent that the Country may buy for their needful Provisions, upon pain to forfeit 10s. and that no Inhabitant of Margat and St. John's, or any other person or persons whatsoever, shall buy, foretell, or ingross the same Commodities, or any part thereof, to sell out by Retail again, until the said three Days be expired, upon pain to forfeit the Commodity or Commodities, so bought contrary to this Article, or the Value thereof; after which Time it shall be lawful for any Towns-man, or other, to buy the same Commodities. And that no Inhabitant or Ports-man shall take upon him to own the Goods or

Merchandizes belonging to any Foreigner or Stranger, to the Prejudice of the Peer or Harbour, upon the pain above specified in this Article.

Item 12. That every Fisher-boat belonging to the said Peer shall pay for every Mackerel and Herring Season that they go a Fishing one Nets-fish, and all other Fisher boats that rig out there, and harbouring most part of the Winter in the said Peer, or most part of the Season, shall pay likewise a Nets-fish to the Peer, though the said Vessel go from this Peer to rig out at another Place.

Item 13. That all Masters, Owners of Ketches or Smacks, which shall be Buyers of Fifth in Mackerel and Herring Season and doth belong to the Peer, shall pay out of every twenty Shillings of their Earnings or Gettings 4d. 4.

Item 14. That every other Fishing-boat, not rigging nor harbouring there, that shall come into the said Peer or Harbour, shall pay towards the maintenance of the Peer for all the time of Mackerel Season, as followeth, viz. the small Boats or Pinks called Thistle Boats every one of them 6d. and the greater Boats 12d.

Item 15. That every other Ship, Crayer, Hoy, or any other Vessel that doth come into the said Peer or Harbour only for Succour, and not to lade or unlade, shall pay according to their Burthen, viz. of ten Tuns and under 4d. of twenty Tuns and under 8d. of thirty Tuns and under 12d. of forty Tuns and under 16d. and those of greater Burthen to pay accordingly; and for Aliens double the Rate.

Item 16. That no Master or Owner of any Vessel, that doth come into the said Harbour, and there shall discharge their Goods, not shipping any other Goods in their Vessels, shall presume to take any kind of Ballast into their Ships or Vessels, but only at the appointment of the Peer-Wardens or Deputy Wardens for the time being, upon pain to forfeit 10s. provided that their Ballast be thought fit by Seamen of Judgment.

Item 17. It is further ordered and decreed, that the Peer-Wardens or their Deputies for the time being, shall not erect, build, or set up any new Works, belonging or pretending to be for the Use of the Peer or Harbour, amounting to the Sum of five Pounds or upwards, without the joint Consent, Allowance, or Approbation of the Deputy for the time being, and the rest of the Parishioners of the said Parish, other than to see to the necessary and needful Reparations thereof as often as need shall be, upon pain to forfeit, for every five Pound so laid out, 10l.

Item 18. That no Ship, Crayer, Hoy, or any other Vessel whatsoever, shall cast, discharge, or heave over-board, in the said Peer, or within the compass of the Bay of Margat thereunto adjoining, any manner of Ballast, Sullage, or any other thing that may in any sort be hurtful to the said Peer or Harbour, upon pain to forfeit 10s.

Item 19. It is decreed, that all Vessels belonging unto the Peer which shall be trading Abroad upon their own Adventure, or otherwise freighted by any Englishman or Stranger, shall pay towards the maintenance of the said Peer or Harbour as followeth, viz. for every Voyage from Port to Port within their Majesties Dominions, for every other Ship or Vessel whatsoever, of the Burthen of forty Tuns or upward 2s. and for those of lesser Burthen 1s. 4d. And for every other Voyage beyond the Seas, viz. into the Netherlands, the East Country, or the Kingdom of France, for the great Vessels 5s. and for the lesser 2s. And for every Voyage to Spain or further to the Southward 10s. 4d. 10s. 4d.

Item 20. That every Ship, Hoy, or any other Vessel whatsoever, which shall take or ship on board any Ballast in the said Peer, and not having then unladed their Goods or Lading in the said Peer, shall for every Load of Ballast pay for a 1d. and a Shire-man 2d.

That all Persons as shall bring into the said Peer or Harbour or the Bay of Margat, any manner of Cables, or any other kind of Wreck or Casualty, or any Anchors or Cables found at Sea, shall pay each Boat towards the maintenance of the said Peer or Harbour, one half Share to be disposed of by the Peer-Wardens, as is accustomed in other adjacent Peers and Harbours.

Item 22. That all Corn, which is the Growth of the Shire or Imbarred in the Shire (being not malted by a Ports-man) that is shipped in the said Peer or Harbour, or Bay adjoining, or board of any Ship, Hoy or Vessel, that harboureth or belongeth to the said Peer or Harbour, shall pay Shire Duties, any Pretence whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

Item 23. That every Merchant or other Person whatsoever, that doth lade or unlade any Goods or any other kind of Merchandize whatsoever in the said Peer or Harbour shall pay towards the maintenance of the said Harbour or Peer, as is set forth in the Rates hereafter mentioned.

For every Inhabitant of the Five Ports and their Members, for every quarter of Wheat, Meal, Rye, Barley, Beans, Peas, Tares, and Mustard-feed.	1	For every great Maund or Basket	2
For every quarter of Malt and Oats	1	For every small Cask	2
For every other Person not dwelling within the Liberties, for every quarter of Wheat, Meal, Rye, Barley, Beans, Peas, Tares, and Mustard-feed.	2	For every great Cask	2
For every quarter of Malt and Oats	1	For every small Trunk or Chest	1
For every Alien or Merchant Stranger, for every quarter of Wheat, Meal, Rye, Barley, Beans, Peas, Tares, and Mustard-feed.	4	For every great Trunk or Chest	2
For every quarter of Malt and Oats	2	For every Truss	4
For every Barrel of Beer for an Englishman	1	For every Fardle	1
For every other Barrel wet or dry	1	For every Pocket of Hops	4
For every other Barrel dry or wet	2	For every Sack of Hops	6
For every Barrel of Ale	2	For every 1000 of Bricks great and the smaller	2 d.
For every half Barrel of Ale 1d. and for a Firkin or small Cask	1	For every 1000 of plain Tiles	2
For every Tun of Wine and sweet Oil	16	For every Weigh of Essex or Suffolk Cheese	2
For every Hoghead dry or wet	3	For every 100 Weight of Holland Cheese	1
For every Punccheon	4	For every 100 Bushels of Apples and Pears	6
For every Pipe dry or wet	6	For every Card of Red Herrings	1
For every great dry Fass	4	For every 100 of Cabbages	1
For every small dry Fass	3	For every 1000 of Essex or Kentish Billet	2
For every Firkin	1	For every 1000 of Top, Gutter or Pann Tiles	6
For every Bale	2	For every 1000 of Paving Tiles	6
For every Pack of Wooll, Cloth, &c. cont. 240l.	8	For every 100 Foot of Paving Stones	3
And those of greater quantity to pay accordingly		For every Grindstone	1
For every Barrel of Train or Fire Oil	1	For every Tun of Bolster Flint Stones	2
For every small Frail, Maund or Basket	1	For every Load of Chalk Stones, rough or bewn	2
		For every 1000 of Rye or Winchelsea Billet	2
		For every 100 of Offrey Faggots	1
		For every Load of Logwood and Tail Wood	2
		For every Tun of Oak or Elm Timber	4
		For all Masts the Piece great 4d. and for the smaller	2
		For every Tun of Iron	8
		For every Bundle of Nail Roods	2
		For every Barrel of Pitch or Tar	2
		For every 100 Weight of Hemp	1
		For every Boult of Canvise	1

For every Piece of Ordnance of Brass, viz. by the 100 Weight 1 d. and Iron	10	For every 1000 of Cleft Pale	3
For all Anchors the 100 Weight 1 d. and Brass unwrought 2 d. and wrought 3	10	For every Load of Post and Rails	2
For every 100 Weight of Copper and Brass unwrought 2 d. and wrought 3	10	For every Load of Hoops	3
For every 100 Weight of Lead	10	For every Load of Laibes	3
For every Chaldron of Coals for a Ports-man 4d. and a Shire-man 3	10	For every Mill-stone great 12 d. and the small	4
For every Weigh of Salt	8	For every Tomb-stone	12
For every 100 of Cod-fish vocat fixed	3	For every Tun of Kelps	6
For every 100 of the second sort	3	For every Horse	6
For every 100 Rapiers of Lime	12	For all Hawks the piece	3
For every 100 of Deal Boards	8	For every Dozen of Pheasants	4
For every 1000 of Barrel Boards	4	For every Hide raw or tanned	1
For every 100 of Glove Boards	4	For every Dozen of Goat, Calf or Sheep Skins	10
For every 100 of Sparrs great 6d. and the small	3	For every Wash of Oysters	5
For every Load of Elm or Oak Boards	6	For every 100 Bushels of Onions	1
		For every 100 of wrought Pewter 3 d. and old	1

Item 24. That every Merchant, either English or Alien, shall pay for all other Goods not before specified in the Rates such like reasonable Sums of Money at the Direction of the Peer-Wardens for the time being.

Item 25. It is hereby decreed and ordered, that for every Penny which a Ports-man payeth, a Shire-man, viz. not inhabiting within the Five Ports or their Members, shall pay towards the maintenance of the said Peer or Harbour 2d. and every Alien or Merchant Stranger 3d. except in such particular Commodities wherein it is expressly rated what Shire-men and Strangers are to pay.

Item 26. That no Ship, Crayer, Hoy, or any other Vessel, shall moor or fasten any Rope or Fastning unto the Braces of the Peer or any other part thereof, but only to such provision and things as are appointed for that purpose, upon pain to forfeit 3s. and 4d.

Item 27. That the Peer-Wardens or their Deputies, or any of them, shall at all times, and from time to time hereafter, cause all Masters and Marriners which do belong to the said Peer or Harbour, or any other Masters or Marriners which at any time, hereafter shall harbour in the said Peer, to moor or place their Vessels or Boats in such place or sort as occasion shall serve, and as by the the Peer-Wardens shall be thought in their Discretion to be most convenient: And that if any Master or Marriner shall disobey the Peer-Wardens or their Deputies, when any of them shall come to see, or cause any Man to moor indifferently as aforesaid, then every Master or Marriner that doth resist, contradict, or disobey the said Peer-Wardens or their Deputies, shall forfeit for every time contrary to the true meaning of this Order 10s. and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Peer-Wardens or their Deputies, not only to levy the Forfeiture by this Decree appointed, but also to cut the Ropes or Fastenings of him or them so offending, without incurring the Danger of the Law.

Item 28. That every Inhabitant of Margat and St. John's aforesaid, shall do their best Endeavour to assist and aid the Peer-Wardens and their Deputies, at all times whensoever they shall require the same, as well to execute the Articles before mentioned as those hereafter expressed, upon pain to forfeit 10s.

Item 29. That all the said several Rates, Forfeitures, and Sums of Money before mentioned to be paid and forfeited, shall from time to time hereafter be collected, gathered, levied, and received by the Peer-Wardens or their Deputies for the time being, by the Help and Assistance of the Inhabitants aforesaid, as Need shall require; and if any persons do resist and refuse to pay the Duties and Forfeitures of the said Peer as aforesaid, that then it shall be lawful for the said Peer-Wardens or their Deputies, to levy the same by Distress of Goods and Chattels, belonging to the said Parties that so refuseth to pay the said Forfeitures; and that the Parties so distrained shall not only pay the Rates, Duties and Forfeitures, as aforesaid, but also 3s. and 4d. for the Peer-Wardens pains out of the Goods over and above: And if the Distress so taken be not redeemed by the Owner or his Assigns, by paying the Money due for Peersage and Forfeitures as aforesaid, within three Days after the taking the same, that then the said Distress shall be sold by reasonable Appraisement, made by three indifferent Parishioners of the Inhabitants aforesaid, and the Overplus of the Value of the Distress (if any be) shall be paid to the Party from whom the Distress was taken; and that also from henceforth the Peer-Wardens and Inhabitants shall have for and towards the Execution of the Premises, if Need require, the Aid and Help of the Chancery and Admiralty Courts, usually holden for the Five Ports and their Members at St. James's Church in Dover, as the said Peer-Wardens and Inhabitants shall seem most convenient.

Item 30. It is further ordered, decreed and appointed, that all the Sum and Sums of Money before mentioned, either to be levied, paid or forfeited, shall wholly be used, employed and bestowed, to the use, benefit and maintenance of the Peer or Harbour aforesaid, as need shall require, by the Direction of the Peer-Wardens for the time being.

Item 31. That all waste Lands and Grounds which formerly have been taken to belong to the Peer, and now doth belong to the same and the Beach behind the same and thereto adjoining, may wholly be converted and employed to the best Advantage of the same, by the Peer-Wardens for the time being, with the Consent of the Deputy and some other of the chief Inhabitants; and no Man to make use of the said Land or Beach without the Consent or good Liking of the said Wardens, and reasonable Content paying for the same: And that the Wardens, with Consent of the Deputy and Parishioners, may Lease out any part of the said Grounds or Beach, to erect, build, or set up any Buildings on it, to the best, present, or future Benefit of the said Peer.

Item 32. That the new Peer-Wardens and Inhabitants aforesaid shall at the Delivery up of the old Peer-Wardens Accounts, give and deliver unto the old Peer-Wardens aforesaid a good and sufficient Discharge of the Sum or Sums of Money by them levied and received; and also of all the Sum and Sums of Money which they do stand bound for to any person or persons, for, in and about the use and behoof of the Peer and Harbour aforesaid. And if it should chance (as God forbid it should) that either, by Tempestuousness or Rage of Weather, or any other casual Means whatsoever, the said Peer or any part thereof be overthrown and beaten down to the Ground, then the Inhabitants and Peer-Wardens aforesaid shall within twenty Days next after the beating down of the same, assemble themselves, and make a Sess, either to discharge the Peer-Wardens of all such Sum and Sums of Money as they stand bound for, to any person or persons, for and towards the use and behoof of the said Peer and Harbour, or else shall build and make up the said Harts with as much speed as may be.

Item 33. There shall be made fair, written, and banded up in some convenient place near the Peer, a Table of all these Orders, Decrees and Rates, that all Men may see the same; and farther, they shall be read openly in the Parish Church of St. John's aforesaid, immediately after Morning Prayer, by the Appointments of the Peer-Wardens, twice every Year, viz. upon St. John's Day in Christmas Week and upon Tuesday in Whitsun Week, upon pain to forfeit 10s.

Daniel Swinford, }
Isaac Barber, } Peer-Wardens.

Edward Boorman, }
Thomas Walton, } Sub-Peer-Wardens.

SYDNEY